



Committee on Homeland Security Democrats **Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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Rep. Bennie Thompson Calls For KARL ROVE to Apologize for Disgraceful Remarks

Calls on President Bush and Republican Members of Congress to Repudiate Rove Statement

WASHINGTON—Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, today called on White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove to apologize for the disgraceful and untrue remarks he made on June 22 in New York City:

“President Bush and Republican Members of Congress should immediately reject Karl Rove’s shameful remarks. It is unconscionable for Rove, or anyone else, to try to politicize the horrible events of 9/11. He should apologize immediately.

“All Americans were wounded when terrorists attacked us on our shores, and we united to rally our troops to defend us and our way of life. But, the Administration needs to remember that it was a Democrat who also called for the government to reorganize itself to create The Department of Homeland Security and pursue intelligence reform. President Bush initially opposed this call. Only after repeated demonstrations of the need for the government to take action and address the problems that helped allow the 9/11 attacks to happen, did the President then decide that creating the DHS was a good idea.

“Even now, the Administration has allowed the continued existence for severe gaps in homeland security. The Administration has failed to fund programs needed to protect our nation’s first responders. In addition, the DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement Department, which must secure our borders, remains critically under-funded. The Administration has even failed to fully fund the 9/11 bill, which passed in response to the findings of the 9/11 commission.

“It’s time to set the record straight: All Americans care about the homeland. No one political party has a monopoly on loving this country and wanting to make its citizens safer.”

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